

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2371

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002

ABANDONMENT OF DRINKING WATER SCHEMES UNDER ARWSP

PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the abandonment of schemes in a number of states leading to infructuous expenditure of Rs.197.52 crore as has been reported in para 5.3 of the CAG Report 3 of 2002 (civil);
- (b) whether only 9244 tube wells were completed after incurring an expenditure of Rs.16.58 crore out of the total cost of Rs.22.70 crore meant for digging 18,245 tube wells during 1998-2001;
- (c) whether the objective of providing safe drinking water free from iron content to the targeted rural people was only partially met;
- (d) whether the Government have enquired the matter alongwith the reasons for abandoning the schemes under ARWSP during 1972-73 and 1998-2001;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) to (f) Chapter III of the Report No. 3 of CAG for the year 2002 (for the year ended March, 2001) has reviewed the implementation of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme during the period from 1997-98 to 2000 - 2001 and has made various observations including those mentioned in this question. Para 5.3 of the report has inter- alia observed that in 19 States, implementing agencies abandoned 2,371 schemes in the course of their execution after incurring an aggregate expenditure of Rs.197.52 crore, rendering the entire expenditure infructuous. It has been stated that these schemes failed due to various reasons such as sources drying up, failure of tube wells, low discharge of water, non-availability of ground and raw water, wrong selection of sites, non- availability of land, objections raised by the local people, other disputes, non-completion of dam work, non-construction of treatment plant, non-availability of critical material, errors in design and drawing, etc. Abandonment of other schemes has been attributed to serious defects in planning and ineffective implementation.

Drinking water supply being a State subject, schemes for providing drinking water facilities are implemented by the States from their own resources. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The powers to plan, sanction and implement Rural Water Supply schemes under the above programmes rests with the State Governments.

Most of the observations contained in the CAG Report are State specific and therefore, action thereon is to be taken by the respective State Governments. State Governments have already been requested to furnish their comments on the observation pertaining to them.